

PETER GLEICHENHAGEN ET AL.
USSN 09/814,625

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the amendments above and the following comments.

The previous claims are replaced by a new set of claims. The claims are not believed to introduce any new matter, and, moreover, are believed clearly to overcome the rejections based on 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, and 35 USC § 101.

With respect to the rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, the new claims are internally consistent, have proper antecedent basis for all terms, and include "preferred" embodiments as separate dependent claims. Moreover, the main claims recite positive method steps.

With respect to the rejection under 35 USC § 101, Applicants have separated the process and product claims.

For the record, Applicants emphasize that although the claims were revised to overcome this rejection, and, therefore, might be considered to have been amended for a reason substantially related to patentability, a fair reading of the revised claims will reveal that the departures from the previous claims were for clarification purposes only, and that Applicants did not narrow the claims in any material respect. Therefore, Applicants submit that the revised

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claims are entitled to the full range of equivalents.

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a bona fide response to all outstanding objections and rejections.

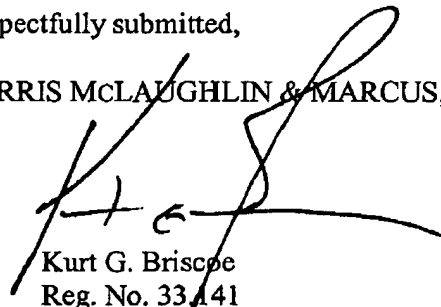
Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NORRIS McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.111 and the accompanying Petition for Extension of Time (11 pages total) are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below:

Date: January 6, 2003

By:


Kurt G. Briscoe

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